

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I make this motion because I tried once and Senator Richard Lewis tried again to help our servicemen in the armed forces who are outside of the state for a period of one year or more. I have yet to know why it's necessary that they have the withholding for these armed forces people who are outside the State of Nebraska if they could not let them do as they have done before. Consequently, I would ask that the bill be returned to Select File to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to object to bringing it back. I said when I voted to bring it out of committee, that I would support it that one time but the amendment that was tried to put on I would have supported it. As it stands now, I do not object to bringing it back.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues. I have no additional information to offer other than what I mentioned the other day. I think it should be restated that this was a bill that was requested by the tax commissioner because servicemen now have to file estimates and rather than go through the process of filing estimates to pay state income tax, they would like to have them pay it through withholding like any other employee does. The ramifications of the...there was nobody in opposition to this at committee hearing. It's just a vehicle to make it easier for these servicemen to pay their state income tax. I think it's a good thing. I personally, if I were salaried, would rather have this withheld than have to send in quarterly estimates, as I do as a businessman. That's all the bill does. It...the bill should pass to give the tax commissioner this particular authority to allow the same convenience that any other employee has. I would urge that you vote against bringing this bill back and passing it on.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body. I can only add a few things to Senator Dworak's eloquent statements. Those are that this, by killing this bill which is in effect what's going to happen when we bring it back and strike the enacting clause. We do not absolve servicemen of their responsibility to pay taxes. All we do is make it very difficult for the serviceman to pay his taxes and almost force him to violate the laws of the State of Nebraska because he's got to come up with that money either in a lump sum or go through the process of income averaging and sending in quarterly reports. This is a tool by which the serviceman can effectively withhold enough money to pay that state income tax and I think it's an absolutely necessary tool. We've not been willing to absolve the serviceman of his responsibility to pay taxes and to strike this enacting clause at this time will put a greater hardship on the same servicemen that those people who try to implement that amendment were trying to do when they wanted to totally absolve them. I think I have to urge the body and I hope that the body will recognize that this does not absolve... if we kill this bill, it does not absolve the serviceman of his responsibility to pay taxes. It just makes it harder for him to pay taxes and encourages him, if not mandates, that he violate the law. So please, let's not return this. I think this bill has got to pass this year so those people can pay those taxes as every other responsible citizen in the state would. Thank you.